

used room to provide the required dark period. Be certain, however to place the plant in a sunny location during the day. The daytime growing temperatures should be 70° to 75°F and no lower than 64°F at night. Continue to fertilize the plants every other week with a complete-analysis, water soluble fertilizer. Water the plants as needed to keep the planting medium (soil) moist, but not wet. The plants should bloom after 9 to 11 weeks of the long night treatment. The length of time to bloom depends on the variety grown.

### **Pest Problems**

Whiteflies are the major insect pests of poinsettias. The adults are tiny, white flies that fly when plants are disturbed. Adults lay eggs on the underside of older leaves. The immature larva are yellowish in color, oval shaped insects which feed on the undersides of the leaves.

### **For Further Reading:**

Nell, Terril A. 1993. Flowering potted plants: prolonging shelf performance. Ball Publishing, Batavia, IL.

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Recommendations for the use of chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage and examine a current product label before applying any chemical. For assistance, contact an agent of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service in your county.

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